LAST SPEECHES

AND

Dying Words

OF

Captain *Thomas Green*, Commander of the Ship the *Worcester*, and of Captain *John Madder*, chief Mate of the said Ship.

As contained in Papers Delivered by themselves upon the Scaffold before their Execution, and Subscrib'd with their own Hands at *Edinburgh* the 11th day of *April*, 1705.

EDINBURGH, Printed by *John Reid Junior*, M D C C V.

THE Dying VVords of Captain *Thomas Green.*

Who was Executed near Leith, April 11, 1705.

Good People,

BEfore I die, I think it my Duty to Advertiſe you of many things where with my Enemies do aſperſe me and my Company. We are condemn'd as Pirates and Murderers, on a Coaſt far diſtant from this Place. Is there any of you who wants either a Friend whom we have murder'd? or whoſe Goods have we taken? We have lived in this Place ſince *July* laſt, can any ſay we have injur'd them? and yet we paſs under this Imputation of the worſt of Men, without either Religion or Probity.

I was Educat in the Religion of the Church of *England*, and I die in that Faith: Aboard our Ship twice I was Commander, the Prayers and Service of the Church were Read *Morning* and Evening; and the Si zers of the *Worceſter* will find there, both Bibles and Prayer Books. In Relation to the Crimes for which I ſtand condemn'd, I declare that one cannot hope to ſee GOD in Mercy, if he die with a Lie in his Mouth: And if a Man be condemn'd to Death for a Crime, under the hazard of loſing his Soul he ought to Glorifie GOD by owning his Guilt, and ſhewing a ſincere Repentance if he be guilty.

Purſuant to which, I, in the Preſence of Almighty GOD, declare to you his People, That I am innocent in Deſign or Deed, and Free from the Crimes for which I am condemn'd. That to my Knowledge, I never all my Liferime wrong'd Man in his Perſon or Goods, or had Acceſſion thereto. What the Cuſtom of Pirates is, I thank GOD I know not: But I underſtand my Accuſers and Perſecuters will have you to believe, that I think it unneceſſary to confeſs before Men. T ke what I ſay as Good Chriſtians ought to do; if you have no Charity you wrong your ſelves, and cannot hurt me.

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I am told some of my Crew have confessed the Crimes and Loaded us with Guilt, this is done since Sentence, and in hope of Saving themselves, which I wish they may do by Lawful means, and not have accession to the shedding Innocent Blood. I am a Dying, these are still in hopes to Live, chuse you which of us to Believe.

As to the false Witnesses that were admitted against us, what way they have been practised, GOD knows; and I hope time will bring it to Light. As to the *Negroes*, this Country knows not their perfidious and Revengeful Temper, and upon Tryal it will be found, that *Antonio Ferdinando* (as he is now called) was not in our Company 48 hours on the Coast of *Malabar*, but was taken in at *Anjange* immediatly before we went to *Bengal*; and that the Sloop was lost six weeks before ever we saw his Face. The Chirurgian Mr. *May*'s Deposition is much upon hearsay; tho I find he humours the Malicious Plot, more than he ought to do, for which I Pray God forgive him.

The Presumptions made use of against me are, such as I could have Satisfied the Court in, had I been allowed to prove my Grounds of Exculpation; but my whole Defences were Repelled; and I gave in a particular Condescendance of the Place and Time, when and where my Cargo was Laded, taken out of the Books; and it will appear, that it agrees with the Inventary and there is not a weighing of Anchor, or the least Sailing on the other side of the Line, which was without the Supercargo's Written Orders, pursuant to my instructions from my Owners, and these are to be found with my Papers; I shall only add this for your Information that I went not a Roving out of the Road of our Trade and Commerce, that I never had occasion to shoot Powder or draw a Weapon in Wrath during the Voyage, and I would have the considering World to examine, if ever a Master of a Ship went a pirating for owners or Freighters, and Returned to Europe, or to the Port from whence they came.

I must take this Occasion to Honour and Justifie a Gentleman, one of my Lawyers, who is most unjustly Reproach'd by his Country men, for assisting me against the Violence of my Persecutors: He told me six Weeks before I was imprison'd, of an Evil Report rais'd against me, of having murther'd Captain *Drummond* and his Crew, and Rob'd his Ship, and entreated me to tell if there was any Ground for that Report, and has ever since

Exhorted

Exhorted me to confess if I was guilty: But I maintained alwise, as in this Action of my Life, I declare my Innocence, and that I never knew till I came to *Scotland*, that such a Man was at Sea, so there was no occasion to harden us as has been Falsly said. And if I were Giulty of the Crimes I stand Condemned for, I think my self bound by a Publick Confession to Glorifie GOD's Justice.

The Malice of my Enemys must be very great, that they'd have me deny'd Law-defences, and by raising False Reports to Terrifie my Faithfull Lawyers from giving me their Assistance. I am oblig'd to that Gentleman who has patiently suffered Reproach without a Cause for my Sake, and who has not been frightned from his duty, but maugre spite and Calumnies, maintained the Cause of Innocent, oppress'd Strangers; For which GOD I hope will Reward him.

In the Humour of Uncharitableness, which at this time abounds, Men may think, that albeit I be Free from Piracy, Robbery and Murder, yet I must needs be guilty of gross Sins which have drawn on me this Judgement: For GOD is Just in all His Doings.

For your Satisfaction please know, That I believe that no Man can free himself from Sin, which if GOD's Mercy in the Merits of Jesus, do not prevent, deserves Death both Temporal and Eternal. Men in a Safaring Employment, whatever they may do to keep themselves Free of gross and immoral Vices, cannot do all those Duties of Religion, that Private Men and Priests have the Opportunity to practise: But for my part, I bless GOD that I have always had a Reverence for Religion, and Religious Matters; and that by his Grace I have been kept Free from any gross or Unnatural Crimes, which by the Laws of Men or Societies deserve Death, or an ignominious Punishment: So I shall only Repeat the Question Our Saviour made, *Were those Persons on whom the Tower of Siloam fell, greater Sinners than Ton are, &c.*

Its the will of God that this befall me, and I thank his Goodness, that gives me the opportunity of Dying deliberatly with all due preparation, which possibly I would not have had either at Sea, where I have been in great danger or in Sickness, when Men are neither willing to think of Death, nor able to undergo a necessary preparation for it: And seeing I could not imitat my Saviour in his Life, he has Bless'd me with the opertunity of following

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ing him a Devil at his Death, in so far as I die for Crimes I am not Guilty of.

Rest Satisfied and assured that ere long, you shall know the mistake this Nation has Run into our case, when the Truth will not help us.

I forgive all Men, and desire to Die in Charity with you all, Requesting your Prayers to GOD for my Poor Soul. I bid you and the World farewell. *sic Subscribitur*,

Tho: Green

The Dying Words of Capt. *John Madder* Chief Mate of the *Worcester*, commanded by Capt. *Green*.

I Here Declare in the presence of God, and before all these People, my Auditors and Spectators; That I nor any of Capt. Green's Crew, never committed Piracy, Robbery or Murder, or had Accession thereto in our whole Voyage: Nor I at any other time during my Life, upon any Sort of Ships, Boats or Barks, or any other thing that moved on the Water, of any sort of Language, Nation or People, whither European, Asian, African, *or* American, *or of* Scots, English, *or* Dutch; *if the Words of a dying Man may believed, by giving of his Solemn Oath, in the presence of God, and all these People, which Oath all Christians may think and be sure of, that I would not step into Eternity with a Ly in my Mouth, and if I did, there would be no Remission for my Immortal Soul from my Great and Omnipotent Judge and Saviour, by whom I hope by unfeinged Repentance, I shall be saved.*

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My Oath is such, Here I Swear in the presence of God, and before all these People, nothing but what is Truth, as I must Answer before my Impartial Judge when call'd to Account at the Great day, If I be guilty of these False and Calumnious Accusations that I'm Condemn'd for, viz. Piracy, Robbery and Murder; That the Great God of Heaven and Earth, that Minute my Immortal Soul departs my Body, it be thrown to utter Darkness, where there is nothing but Weeping and Gnashing of Teeth. But as I'm Innocent of these False and Calumnious Accusations that I'm Condemn'd for, I trust in my Great and Merciful God, by the Mediation and Intercession of my Lord and Saviour JESUS CHRIST, on whose Merits I Confide and Relye, will Graciously Pardon all my other Sins Committed in my Lifetime, whither of Ommission or Commission, or Thought, Word or Deed, which are all known to him who is Omniscient, for there is nothing hid from him, with whom we have to do; And God knows, and I hope due time will discover the Practises of some Persons who have been at great Pains and Zeal to Cheat us out of our Lives, by False and Perjur'd Witnesses, which I appeal to God to be true, and I am Innocent, and Innocent Blood will call for Vengeance on them that is the Cause of shading it. God Forgive them, and I forgive them. Farewell.

Jo. Madder

James Simpson *Gunner to the said Ship, Execute with the said Capt.* Green, *and* John Madder, *left no written Speech behind him.*

Your humble Servant